

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20

NSC-07 DRC-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 /120 W

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P 260811Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8127

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1688

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS BEXP NO NATO

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT: PUBLICITY ON EFFORTS AT COORDINATION

REF: (A) OSLO 1598 (B) OSLO 1440 (C) BRUSSELS 2447

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. EFFORTS TO REACH FOUR-NATION  
AGREEMENT ON COMMON PROCUREMENT OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT  
REPLACEMENT ARE REPORTED IN TODAY'S PRESS, THE FIRST  
PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF WHICH EMBASSY IS AWARE. CONSERVATIVE  
OSLO DAILY AFTENPOSTEN FRONT-PAGES AN ARTICLE BY ITS  
BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT, FREDERIK BOLIN, WHO REPORTS  
(WITHOUT ANY INDICATION OF HIS SOURCE) THAT NORWAY  
HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE FOR COMMON PROCUREMENT, THAT  
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RANKING OFFICIALS FROM NORWAY, LED BY DEFENSE SECRETARY

GENERAL ERIK HIMLE AND MAJOR GENERAL SVERRE HAMRE, HAVE VISITED THE CAPITALS OF THE OTHER THREE COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, AND THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF NORWAY, DENMARK, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS WILL HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING ON THE QUESTION IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK.

2. BOLIN LISTS AS AMONG THE AIRCRAFT UNDER CONSIDERATION THE MIRAGE, NORTHROP COBRA, AND GENERAL DYNAMICS YF-16; HE ADDS THAT SWEDEN IS TRYING TO INTEREST THE FOUR IN THE VIGGEN. BOLIN REPORTS AGREEMENT AMONG THE FOUR THAT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGES, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC, IF FUTURE PROCUREMENT COULD BE COORDINATED. HE ALSO REFERS TO SECURITY AND POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF SUCH COORDINATION, ADDING THAT RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE NEED FOR BURDENSARING, WHICH CONGRESS HAS LINKED WITH MAINTENANCE OF US TROOP LEVELS IN EUROPE, COULD BE A DECISIVE FACTOR IN FAVOR OF PURCHASE OF A US MODEL. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: BOLIN IS WELL TUNED-IN IN BRUSSELS, AND TODAY'S ARTICLE IS TYPICAL OF HIS FACTUAL, NON-SENSATIONAL REPORTING. WE HAVE NO CLUES AS TO HIS SOURCE, BUT OUR FIRST GUESS WOULD BE THAT NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS GAVE HIM THE STORY TO ANSWER IN ADVANCE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT PURPOSE OF NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF DEFENSE MINISTERS. ARTICLE IS ACCURATE AND HELPFUL TO US INTERESTS, TO EXTENT THAT IT MAKES CLEAR THE ADVANTAGES OF BUYING AMERICAN. BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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